
Notice of
PUBLIC HEARINGS

On the
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND DRAFT FEASIBILITY REPORT**

For the
**ARKANSAS RIVER
NAVIGATION STUDY**

(See Back for Details)

DATES:	May 3, 2005	May 4, 2005	May 5, 2005
LOCATIONS:	Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce 200 E. Markham Ave. Little Rock, AR	Latture Conf. Center Univ. of Ark., Ft. Smith Grand Ave. & 50 th St. Fort Smith, AR	Henry Zarrow Regional Library 2224 W. 51 st St. Tulsa, OK
TIME:	Registration - 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Presentation and Public Comments – 6:30 P.M.		

Note: Directions to the facilities are included on the last page.

Announcement of Public Hearings May 3, 4, & 5, 2005

Public Involvement: The US Army Corps of Engineers is seeking comments through May 24 on a Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Arkansas River Navigation Study. As part of the public involvement process, the agency has also scheduled three public hearings for early May in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Affected individuals, government agencies and private organizations are invited to attend one of the public hearings. The meetings will [1] describe the proposed action and alternatives; [2] briefly describe the study and EIS process; [3] identify key issues of concern; and [4] receive public comments regarding the draft EIS and Feasibility Report. Following the presentation, the public will be invited to provide oral and/or written comments. Public and Agency comments will be used to assist the USACE in the preparation of the Final EIS and the Record of Decision for operational and structural changes to the entire McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

Information: The study has been examining ways to make the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System more reliable and improve navigation efficiency. The study explored ways to reduce the average number of days each year that flows are high enough to impede navigation. It also addressed potential deepening of the waterway so barges can be loaded more fully, and it examined widening the Verdigris River portion of the system in Oklahoma.

The documents have identified cost-effective, environmentally sound methods to alter flow regimes from the Oklahoma lakes to reduce the number of days with high flows and to deepen the navigation channel to 12 feet, but widening the Verdigris River was not recommended.

The Corps estimates the recommended changes will cost \$160 million to implement, and will return an estimated \$22 million in benefits each year. An estimated \$12 million in environmental mitigation is included in the cost estimate, and the Corps is still working with the environmental resource agencies to develop a final mitigation plan.

The preparation of an EIS is required by Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to document the positive and negative effects of major government actions such as the proposed changes to the MKARNS.

Meeting Format: Participants will receive handout materials that summarize the proposed action and key study issues. Overviews of the draft Feasibility Study and EIS will be presented. Comment sheets will be available for written comments and a court reporter will be in attendance to record oral comments. Oral comments at the Public Hearing will be limited to **5 minutes** per person. Individuals desiring to make longer statements may provide written comments. Written and oral statements will be given equal weight when addressed in the Final EIS. Upon request, provisions will be made for individuals requiring special assistance.

What You Can Do: All interested parties are urged to respond to this notice, including representatives of Federal and non-federal agencies; agricultural, commercial, industrial, business, transportation and utility interests; civic, environmental, recreational, and fish & wildlife organizations; and concerned citizens, property owners and other interests.

Public comments, questions, or requests for a copy of the documents should be provided to Ron Carman (ATTN: CESWL-PR-P), Little Rock Engineer District, P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. For phone requests or information in Arkansas, call Ron Carman or Renee Wright at 501-324-5601 or 501-324-6139. In Oklahoma, call Ed Rossman at 918-669-4921. Comments, questions or requests can also be e-mailed to AR-OK.River.Study@usace.army.mil. Comments must be received by May 24 to become part of the official record.

AVAILABILITY OF DEIS: Copies of the DEIS are also available for review at the following locations:

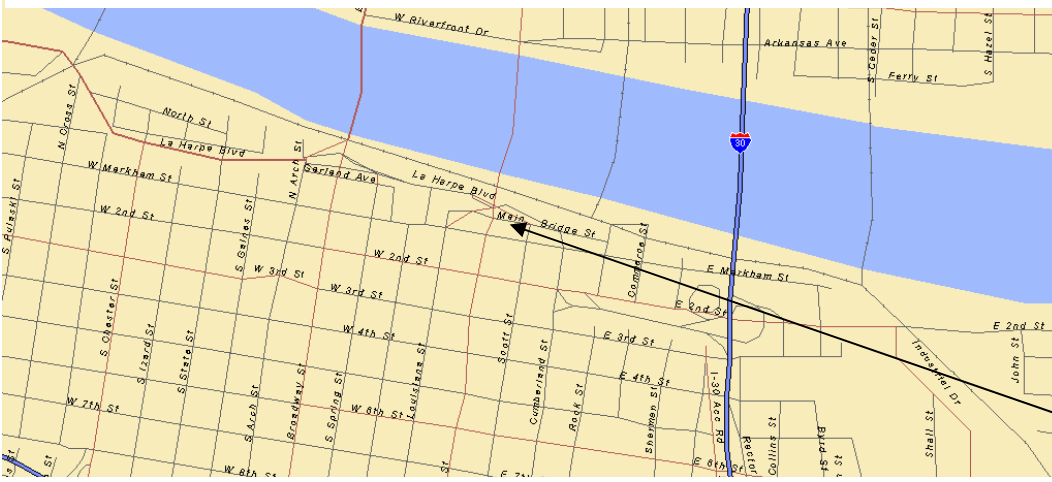
- Fort Smith Public Library, 61 S. 8th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901
- Arkansas River Valley Regional Library, 501 N. Front Street, Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834
- Clarksville Public Library, 2 Taylor Circle, Clarksville, Arkansas 72830
- Franklin County Library, 407 W. Market, Ozark, Arkansas 72949
- Pope County Library, 116 E. 3rd Street, Russellville, Arkansas, 72801-5198
- Morrilton County Library, 101 W. Church Street, Morrilton, Arkansas 72110-3399
- Faulkner County Library, 1900 Tyler Street, Conway, Arkansas 72032
- Maumelle Library, 10 Lake Pointe Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72113
- Little Rock Public Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212
- Jefferson County Library, 200 E. 8th Avenue, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601-5092
- Melville Library, 4010 S. Mulberry Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603
- Dumas Public Library, 120 E. Choctaw Street, Dumas, Arkansas 71639
- Tulsa City-County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103
- OSU Library, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074
- Tulsa Public Library, 1207 E. 45th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105
- South Regional Library, 6737 S. 85th East Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
- Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Avenue, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012
- South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 S. Chestnut Avenue, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
- Linscheid Library, ATTN: OEIMC, East Central State College, Ada, Oklahoma 74820
- University of Oklahoma Library, 401 West Brooks, Norman, Oklahoma 73069
- Eastern Oklahoma District Library, 814 W. Okmulgee Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401
- Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library, 101 E. Cherokee Street, Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955.

Free copies of the DEIS (on CD) and the Draft Feasibility Report for the Arkansas River Navigation Study are available by writing, calling, or emailing the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers at the contact provided in "What You Can Do". Paper copies are available for purchase at cost (including printing and shipping).

In addition, the DEIS and Draft Feasibility Report are available on-line at the following website:

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/projmgmt/arkriverstudy.html>

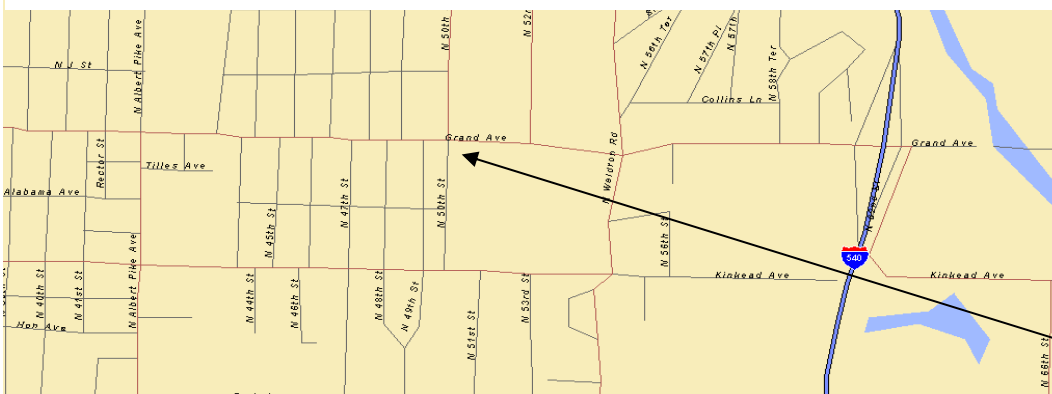
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
Little Rock, AR Tuesday May 3, 2005



The Chamber of Commerce can be reached from I-30, by taking exit #141A/AR-10 onto 2nd Street toward Markham Street. Turn right on S. Louisiana Street to arrive at the Chamber.

Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce

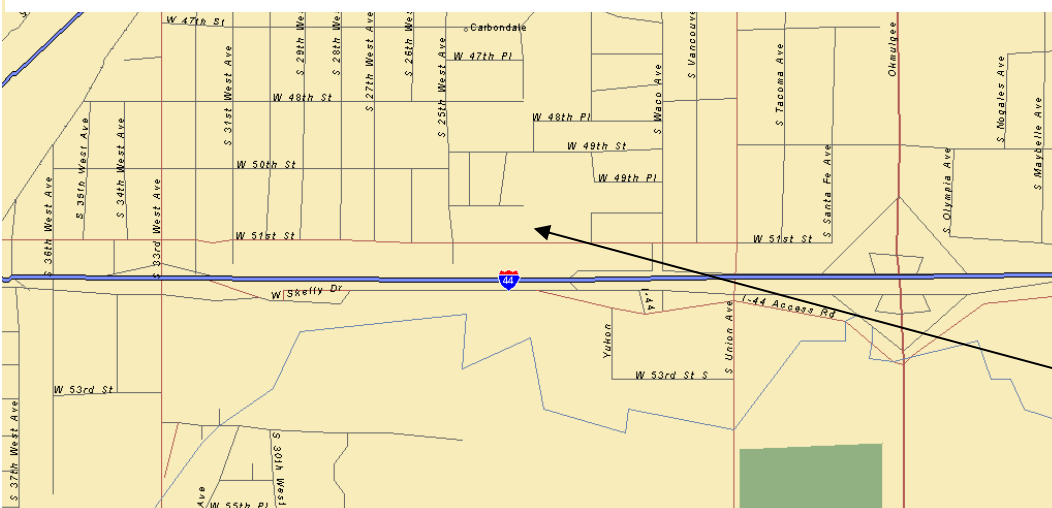
Latture Conference Center University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith
Ft. Smith, AR Wednesday May 4, 2005



The Latture Conference Center is located at the corner of Grand Ave. and N. 50th Street. The Center is reached from I-540 exiting on Grand Ave. and travelling west on Grand Ave.

Latture Conference Center

Harry Zarrow Regional Library
Tulsa, OK Thursday May 5, 2005



The Library is reached from I-44 exiting north on 33rd West Ave. At the first intersection turn east on 51st Street. Travel approximately 8 blocks on 51st to reach the library.

Harry Zarrow Regional Library